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QUESTION OF PALESTINE

Letter dated 13 July 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement by the Press Secretary/Director-General for Public Information and Cultural Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan on the return of Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, to the Gaza Strip (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 35.

(Signed) Shunji MARUYAMA
Acting Permanent Representative
of Japan to the United Nations

ANNEX

Statement by the Press Secretary/Director-General for Public Information and Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, on the return of Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, to the Gaza Strip

The Government of Japan expresses its hearty congratulations to Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, on his permanent return to the Gaza Strip on 12 July 1994. It expects that this marks the first step towards setting the interim self-government on the right track.

The Government of Japan recognizes that financial assistance from the international community is necessary as the interim self-government is being formed, and has pledged that it would allocate for start-up costs US$ 25.75 million from the US$ 200 million in assistance for Palestinians to be extended over two years that Japan announced in September last year. Of the pledged amount, $16.75 million has already been forwarded to the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank. In addition, the Government of Japan has recently decided to donate 9,000 police uniforms to the Palestinian police.

The Government of Japan hopes that the Palestinian Authority will establish an effective tax collecting system at an early stage to cover the costs of operations of the interim self-government.